

History Recalls How Detroit of the Past Observed the Day on Which the Martyr President Died

By MARJORIE ELAINE PORTER.

EVEN as a mother remembers the birth-day of her dead child and observes it by silent mourning, so the Mother Country of Abraham Lincoln remembers, and will observe as a National Holiday, Feb. 12, 1920, the one hundred and eleventh anniversary of his birth.

On that date—next Thursday—great cities and small towns all over the country will, no doubt, pay some tribute to the memory of the man who came of the people, stood firmly by the people, and worked continually for the people of these United States.

Detroit will not be an exception, and here the day will be observed in various ways. Federal, municipal and banking institutions will close, and although the schools will remain open, they will commemorate the day by giving appropriate exercises and Lincoln programs.

While Detroit of the present is preparing to observe the day upon which Abraham Lincoln was born, history recalls how Detroit of the past observed the day upon which the martyr president died.

It was that fifteenth day of April, 1865, just five days after the news had reached here that Lee had surrendered, and the city was still celebrating.

Those five carefree days after the news had been confirmed, and victory and peace to the Union were assured, the citizens of Detroit had devoted to patriotic demonstrations. Places of business were closed, people became oratorical with patriotic zeal and delivered speeches in the streets, and parading citizens with flaming torches carried the jubulations far into the night.

But the five days of rejoicing came to a tragic end the morning of that April 15, when, with a shock, Detroit learned of the assassination of President Lincoln. The city was soon astir with excitement, and the streets became filled with the citizens, who, angered at the outrage, stunned by the blow, grief-stricken by the loss, and fearful of what the future might now have in store, were unable to attend to their duties.

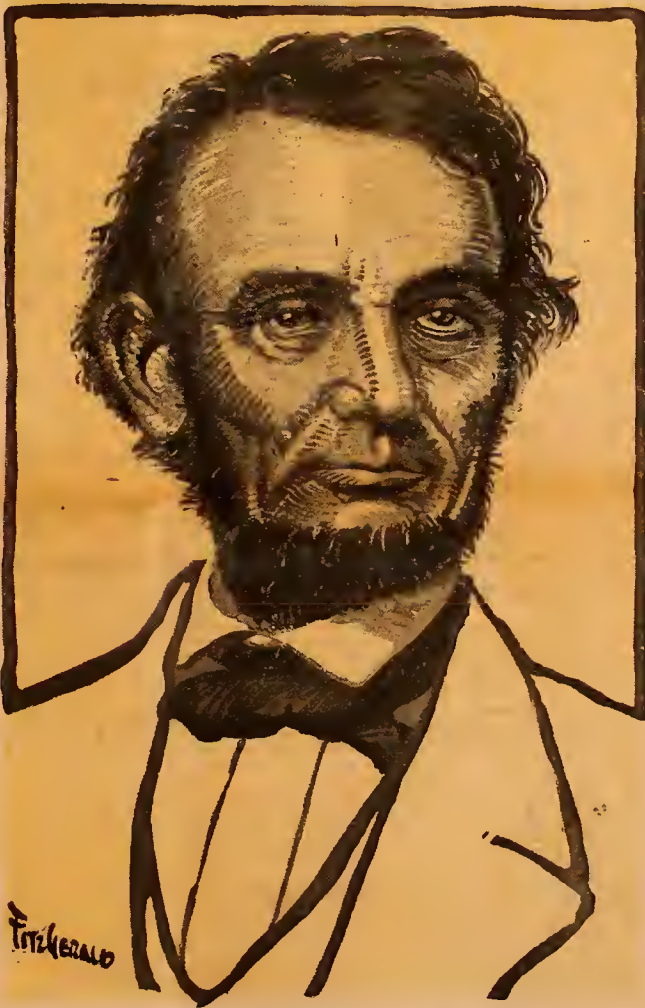
K. C. Barker, then Mayor of Detroit, immediately sent a message to the people asking that places of business be closed and that the bells of the city be tolled. This message was conveyed to the people through special editions of the press, and by means of "Broad-sides," or printed notices, which were posted in conspicuous places throughout the city.

One of these original notices has been preserved and is now at the Burton Historical Collection, branch of the Public Library, at 27 Brainerd street.

The Mayor's message to the city read:

"Today we have received the astounding intelligence that our Chief Magistrate has been daringly assassinated at a public theater in our Capital. The Nation, lately so joyous over victories and the assurance of peace, is today shrouded in gloom. The feeling is universal that no greater loss could befall our country. Sorrow sits upon every countenance. Under such circumstances, and while bending beneath the weight of this great calamity, it seems proper that I should invite all citizens to suspend their ordinary avocations, and to give testimony to their sense of the nation's affliction."

"I therefore request that all public and private places of business be closed and remain closed during the day."



"I request that all the bells of the city be tolled one hour, from 12 to 1 o'clock this day."

"I also respectfully invite the citizens of Detroit to meet at the CITY HALL AT 3 O'CLOCK to take such action as shall be appropriate to the solemn occasion."

"K. C. BARKER, Mayor."

And while the bells of the city solemnly tolled the death knell of Abraham Lincoln, special editions of the newspapers giving details of the tragedy were hurried to press.

A copy of the special edition of the Advertiser Tribune, a local paper at that time, has also been preserved at the Burton Collection. It was printed in mourning, that is, with a deep border of black around the edge and with black bars extending the entire length of the page between the columns.

In the first column is told the

story of "The Great Tragedy at Washington," the second column is devoted to the "Life of Abraham Lincoln," in the third column is told the sequel to the tragedy in the attempt to kill Secretary W. H. Seward while he was ill and confined to his bed.

The fourth column of the paper contains local news telling how Detroit received the message and the Mayor's letter to the people. The fifth and last column is filled with telegraphic briefs telling how other cities all over the country were making preparations to express their sorrow by public demonstrations.

In concluding the story of "The Life of Abraham Lincoln," the writer said, "We believe Mr. Lincoln was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and a devout Christian. It was stated that he was regularly in the habit of spending an hour every morning in seclusion with his Bible before him, and all his public papers breathed a reli-

ance upon a Divine help in the responsibilities of his high position."

In an editorial in that same paper he was characterized as "A child of the people, simple in his tastes, void of selfish ambition, not of great intellect, but possessing strong understanding and sagacious perception, with a kind word and a smile for everybody, patient under irritation and disaster, conspicuously faithful to principle, and as incorruptible as St. Paul, bending in modest service to bear and obey the real voice of the people, he will live in their affections as long as our history shall stand."

On the evening of that day, a patriotic society here known as the Union League, held an indignation meeting at which many of the members, who were prominent citizens, delivered memorable speeches eulogizing Lincoln and condemning with a righteous wrath the man by whose hand he fell.

Among the speakers was John J. Bagley, who later became the Gov-

ernor of Michigan. The remarks made by Mr. Bagley expressed the deep feeling that seemed to be universal. He said:

"I closed my store and went home. I sat down in the parlor, and the tears would come. My little daughter came to me and said, 'Papa, what's the matter?' I said, 'Mr. Lincoln is dead.' 'What, papa? Our Lincoln? Is our Lincoln dead?' 'Yes,' I said, 'our Lincoln is dead.'"

"My friends, he was our Lincoln. It's our Lincoln who is dead! Not the Lincoln of five years ago, whom comparatively few people knew, nor the Lincoln of two years ago whose ability some doubted, but the Lincoln of today, of yesterday, whom as a Nation we loved, and whom as a Nation, we mourn."

"Our Lincoln is dead! But he liveth still, and the spirits of the brave Boys in Blue, from a hundred battlefields, give him greeting in the mystic land."

April 15 came on Saturday that year, and the next day was Easter Sunday. But the sermons preached in the churches of Detroit that Easter were not the accustomed Easter sermons, but were solemn discourses on the life and death of Abraham Lincoln.

One of these sermons which later became famous, was that delivered by the Rev. George Duffield, in the First Presbyterian Church, which then stood on Gratiot avenue and Farmer street.

Dr. Duffield called his discourse "The Nation's Wail" and chose for his text, "And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah" (Chron. 35, 23-25). It began with the stirring words, "In the midst of our rejoicing over victories, and the crushing of rebellion; from the loftiest pinnacle of joy, we are hurled into the depths of heart-breaking anguish. The firm and faithful hand that held the reins of Government, lies cold and motionless in Death."

But it concluded in a more comforting tone with, "The memory of the just is blessed. His name is enshrined in the hearts of his people, and his fame, like that of Washington, shall last while these United States endure; which may God grant, shall be to the coming of the Lord."

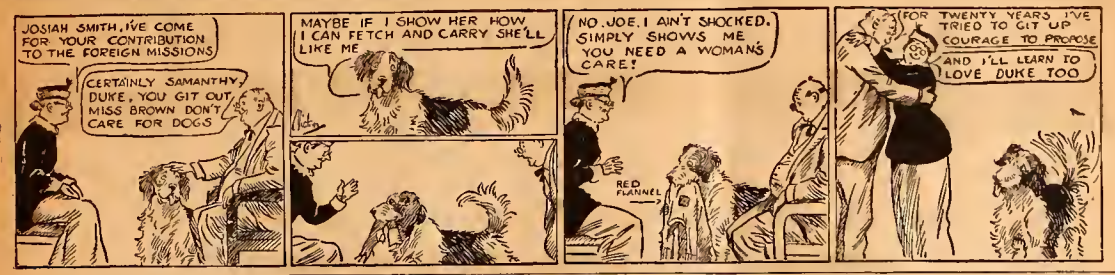
For the three days that followed, Detroit was in mourning. The streets lined with houses or stores draped with solemn hangings and streamers of black wore a somber aspect. In the windows of residences and shops were displayed signs and motto-cards bearing appropriate and consoling inscriptions.

On the twenty-fifth a memorial oration was delivered by Jacob M. Howard, and a great funeral procession bearing a catafalque and emblems of mourning.

Many Detroiters attended the funeral of Abraham Lincoln, at Springfield. Among those who went from Detroit was John C. Sabine, an ardent admirer of Lincoln. When Mr. Sabine returned he brought with him a book which he had bought of Abraham Lincoln at Springfield. Mr. Sabine had the name "Lincoln" cut into the brick and had the outer surface of it gilded over. He then placed it in the wall of his store, which stood on the southwest corner of Woodward avenue and Columbia street. A number of years later, after Mr. Sabine's death, the building was torn down and the precious brick was lost among the many others that tumbled about it when the old wall was demolished. Sabine's book, however, was saved by his son, John Sabine, who is now a resident of Detroit. It is like her father, a staunch admirer of the great Lincoln. For many years she has been collecting and saving in a book which she calls her "Lincoln Souvenir" pictures and clippings taken from papers and magazines, old and new, published in all parts of the country. Among the clippings are tributes paid to Abraham Lincoln by other great men, anecdotes of his life, familiar sayings, and extracts from his speeches.

(Continued on Page Two)

Dickey's Dogs—Duke, You're a Prince.



Death of Lincoln

(Continued From First Page.)

scraps taken from his speeches and letters.

In regard to letters written by the former President there are in the Burton Collection two original letters written by Abraham Lincoln to J. P. Joy, of Detroit. Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Joy were attorneys then, and had many consultations correspond on matters of law cases in which the clients of both were concerned. These letters were written from Springfield in 1854 and from Bloomington in 1855. They are both in regard to law cases in which railroads were involved. The mail but firm writing of Abraham Lincoln stands out as clearly and as legibly on the paper now as when it was first placed on it, so many years ago.

The letter written from Springfield is characteristic of the great man in its dignity and earnestness. It is signed "J. P. Joy, Esq."

"Dear Sir—Yours of the 26th is just received, and I suppose, are this, you have received my answer to your dispatch on the same subject. It is my impression the case will not be brought up for trial before the meeting of the Legislature, but I can not get the promise of the Court to that effect—I can only venture to say the first of February, but as this day draws near, I can see farther ahead, and will try to give you again—

"Allow me to suggest that it is not safe to regard the case too lightly—A great stake is involved, and it will be fiercely contended for—I think we shall carry it; but I have a suspicion that the feeling of some of the judges are against us—

"I suppose you are aware that the point to be made against is that the Constitution secures to the counties the right to tax all property beyond the power of the Legislature to take it away—

"Yours truly, A. LINCOLN."

In the old days Abraham Lincoln had hosts of admirers in the City of the Straits, and there are many today who cherish some relic because of its association with him.

But the relics are for the most part few and far between. As the years go on the few that have been collected will gradually diminish as those who cherish them pass on and leave their treasures to be lost or scattered.

Perhaps the largest collection of Lincoln mementos in Detroit today is that owned by the Lincoln Motor Co. It is estimated to be worth \$20,000 and was purchased by Henry H. Lehnd, president of the company. The collection has been placed in a room known as the "Lincoln Room" in the Administration Building of the Lincoln plant.

Here may be seen many things intimately associated with the great man. There is a dining-room chair used by President Lincoln in the White House from 1861-65, and there is also an old-fashioned ink

CITY OF DETROIT

Mayor's Office,
APRIL 10, 1865.

To the Citizens of Detroit:

To-day we have received the astounding intelligence that our Chief Magistrate has been daringly assassinated at a public theatre in our Capital. The Nation, lately so joyous over victories and the assurance of peace, is to-day shrouded in gloom. The feeling is universal that no greater loss could befall our country. Sorrow sits upon every countenance. Under such circumstances, and while hanging beneath the weight of this great calamity, it seems proper that I should invite all citizens to suspend their ordinary avocations, and to give testimony to their sense of the country's affliction.

I therefore request that all public and private places of business be closed and remain closed during the day.

I request that all the bells of the city be tolled one hour, from 12 to 1 o'clock, this day.

I also respectfully invite the citizens of Detroit to meet at the

CITY HALL, AT 3 O'CLOCK

To take such action as shall be appropriate to the solemn occasion.

K. C. BARKER, Mayor.

How to Live Without Working

A PRACTICAL joker has placed in the German weekly Jugend the following advertisement:

Urged by my friends and acquaintances, I have decided to open a course in the new Bolshevikian art of "Live Without Working."

I have succeeded in acquiring the best talents in the country.

The fee is very reasonable, the sessions only a few hours, and every body will be able to attend the lessons.

My system offers the best chance for a Bolshevikian career.

Separate classes in the superintending of strikes, jobless parades and revolutions. Special instruction in plundering, castle storming and executions.

Come and inspect the many testimonies of former students from all over Europe, who without working have become prosperous by the application of my methods.

mourning in the history of their city. Hundreds of Detroit's brave sons heard President Lincoln's call for volunteers in '61 and responded to it

Sons of Detroit fought and fell in the battle of Gettysburg, and I was over their dead bodies that President Lincoln delivered the immortal Gettysburg address.

Lincoln's Efforts To Trace His Ancestry

HUMBLE as he was the parentage and beginnings of the first splitter who became the first figure in American history, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, was not unmindful of his origin, seeking to find in his ancestry definite claim to heritage of consequence in the human family. While he was in Congress, especially in the course of the year 1848, this interest in genealogy was made manifest in correspondence directed to finding trace of his forefathers on American soil.

He knew something of his grandfather, and with this as a signpost to inquiry was able to pick up the thread of ascent and consanguinity that brought him some definite knowledge. He found in David Lincoln of Virginia a distant relative who had possession of family records which included the ancestry of the man who was to become President.

Abraham Lincoln did not know David Lincoln when he opened the correspondence on the subject of a possibly common ancestry. The name of David Lincoln had been suggested to Representative Lincoln, and accepting the clue, he acted on it and found the trail.

Your very worthy representative, Gov. McDowell, he wrote to David Lincoln on March 24, 1848, "had given me your name and address, and I have written to you in Rockingham, from whence his father, Benjamin Lincoln, emigrated, 1782. I am now concluded to address you to ascertain whether we are not of the same family."

I shall be much obliged if you will write me whether or not you, in any way, know anything of my grandfather, what relation you are to him, and get on, also, if you know, where your family came

from, when they settled in Virginia, tracing them back as far as your knowledge extends."

The response of David Lincoln established the bond of relationship. While this letter is not in evidence, the acknowledgment of Abraham



Birthplace of Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln throws light on the Lincoln genealogy. Dated April 2, of the same year, it reads:

"Last evening I was much gratified by receiving and reading your letter of the 30th of March. There only one thing, however, that I am sorry to hear of, and that is, that your Uncle Abraham and my grandfather was the same man."

His family had resided in Washington county, Kentucky, just as you say you found them in 1801 or 1802. The family of Uncle Mordcai, near 20 years ago, removed from

Kentucky to Hancock county, Illinois, where, within a year or two afterwards, he died, and where his surviving children now live. His two sons there now are Abraham and Mordcai, and their potfolios is La Harp.

There is no statue on any of Detroit's streets or public squares to remind the million people as to the possession of individuals. But Detroit, as a city, aside from naming schools and streets after him, has paid no other permanent tribute to the memory of Abraham Lincoln.

There are only two statues of Lincoln in Detroit today, but they belong to the Lincoln and Packard corner companies and not to the people. There is no statue on any of Detroit's streets or public squares to remind the million people as to the possession of individuals. But Detroit, as a city, aside from naming schools and streets after him, has paid no other permanent tribute to the memory of Abraham Lincoln.

There is no statue on any of Detroit's streets or public squares to remind the million people as to the possession of individuals. But Detroit, as a city, aside from naming schools and streets after him, has paid no other permanent tribute to the memory of Abraham Lincoln.

am in my fortieth year, and I live in Springfield, Ill.

"This is the outline of my grandfather's family in the West. I think that grandfather had four brothers, Isaac, Jacob, John and Thomas. Is that correct, and which of them was your father? Are any of them alive?

"I am quite sure that Isaac resided in Wataga, near a point where Virginia and Tennessee join; and that he has been dead more than 20, perhaps 30 years. Also, that Thomas removed to Kentucky, near Lexington, where he died a good while ago.

"What was your grandfather's name? Was he not a Quaker? About what time did he emigrate from Berks County, Pa., to Virginia? Do you know anything of your family (or rather I may now say our family) further back than your grandfather?

"If it be not too much trouble to you, I shall be pleased to hear from you again. Be assured I will call on you, should anything ever bring me near you. I shall give your regards to Gov. McDowell, as you desire."

No more of the correspondence is known to have, however, developed that Abraham Lincoln was keen on the quest to determine the identity of his progenitors. His inquiries also suggest his thought that possibly the family was of Quaker origin, which also fits in with the supposition of emigration from Pennsylvania.

Genealogists have delved into the records to find that President Lincoln, on both sides, came of the best of English stock. The blood of British aristocracy flowed in his veins. Abraham Lincoln was directly descended from Richard Brenchin, Lord of Carbrook Manor, Norfolk. In the sixteenth century, The will of Lord Brenchin mentions a daughter, Elizabeth, who later married Richard Lincoln, grandfather of Samuel Lincoln, first of the Lincoln family to settle in America.